

OLC 72-0103

28 January 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of the Full Senate Armed Services
Committee - 27 January 1972

1. The Director briefed the full Senate Armed Services Committee on 27 January 1972. The meeting lasted from 1010 hours to 1240 hours. A technical sweep of the room, 212 Old Senate Office Building was conducted and the room was kept under technical monitoring throughout. Discussions included SI and TKH material. No transcript was taken, but it was agreed that a copy of the Director's prepared statement would be provided the Committee staff to be retained in their custody but shown to any Committee members who may wish to refer to it.

2. Present for all or part of the session were:

John Stennis (D., Miss.), Chairman
Stuart Symington (D., Mo.)
Howard W. Cannon (D., Nev.)
Harry F. Byrd (I., Va.)
Harold E. Hughes (D., Iowa)
Lloyd Bentsen (D., Texas)
Margaret Chase Smith (R., Me.)
Strom Thurmond (R., S. C.)
Richard S. Schweiker (R., Pa.)
William B. Saxbe (R., Ohio)

3. Present from the Committee staff were:

T. Edward Braswell, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
James Woolsey, General Counsel
Labre R. Garcia, Professional Staff Member

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4. Accompanying the Director were:

Carl Duckett, DDS&T
Bruce Clarke, D/OSR
[REDACTED] SAVA
[REDACTED] OCI
John M. Maury, Legislative Counsel

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5. The Director delivered from his prepared statement sections
on:

The Soviet Military Establishment
Soviet Strategic Forces
The Middle East
India-Pakistan
Chinese Military Developments
Sino-Soviet Relations
Chinese Political Situation
Indochina (Vietnam)
Laos
Cambodia

6. During the ensuing discussion:

a. The Chairman complimented the Director on the presentation, remarking that the outstanding performance of the Agency was largely attributable to the fact that its Director was a man of long experience and outstanding professional qualifications.

b. In response to questions by the Chairman the Director explained that the recent reverses suffered by the Cambodian government forces involved heavy losses of equipment and adverse morale effects rather than extensive human casualties. In Laos, he said the Communists were capable of pressing their advances further than at any time in the past, but it was not clear how far they would go in terms of territorial objectives, since their main purpose seems to be to put pressure on the Vientiane government and force it to adopt a neutral position.

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c. The Chairman asked for details regarding the new Soviet Swingwing bomber, and Mr. Clarke explained that earlier

d. The Chairman expressed particular interest in the Soviet navy, and in a comparison between the Soviet and U.S. navies, including both their "good and bad" features. The Director said we would respond (and Mr. Braswell understands we will respond only regarding the Soviet side of the question and will so explain to the Chairman).

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e. Senator Symington asked several questions about [REDACTED] in Laos--their numbers, compensation, etc., which were answered by [REDACTED]

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f. Senator Symington asked how the Soviets could have an ABM system without having a SPRINT-type missile, and was promised a paper on this subject to be prepared by Mr. Duckett.

g. Senator Symington asked several questions about SALT, Malta, and relations between India and Bangladesh which were answered by the Director who explained that Mujib would try to avoid Indian domination but would find it hard to keep free of Indian influence.

h. Senator Symington quoted Marchetti's allegation of excessive military influence in the preparation of National Estimates, which he said was very disturbing. The Director said he did not know what this was based on but assured the Senator that under the present system his concern was unfounded.

i. Senator Symington said he shared the Chairman's high regard for the Director and the Agency, but said he was concerned that a new National Security Council Intelligence Committee had been established under Dr. Kissinger. The Director explained this Committee would not run the CIA, but perform the very useful function of sorting out the priorities between the top consumers. The Director said in this way it would be a help to him in getting his job done. Symington said he found this reassuring.

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j. Senator Cannon asked about a new Soviet aircraft carrier and was told there was no agreement in the community that the vessel in question was an aircraft carrier, and such speculation was premature. He also asked about Soviet use of helicopters for close support and was told that the Soviets had not been involved in combat since the perfection of helicopters for such a role, but they were not unaware of the problem and were certainly developing helicopters for personnel movement in combat situations.

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l. In response to questions by Senator Byrd, the Director said the Soviets were continuing to develop both offensive and defensive weapons systems, that the situations in Laos and Cambodia were less favorable than last year, and that Thailand was now more exposed than in the past.

m. In response to a question from Senator Symington, the Director said he knew of no plans to withdraw U.S. air forces from Thailand.

7. Follow up action:

a. A paper for Chairman Stennis on the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet navy. OSR will prepare this. Senator Stennis will be reminded by Ed Braswell that his comparable questions about the U.S. Navy will have to be answered by the Pentagon.

b. Paper for Senator Symington on how the Soviet ABM system functions without SPRINT missiles. DDS&T will prepare.

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Distribution:

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